

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

OMB-01 CIEP-03 DRC-01 /116 W
----- 049639

R 061220Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8803
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOE MINISTER TO LIBYA

1. DEPUTY PM AND MININT MAMDUH SALIM, WHO IS APPARENTLY CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF LIBYAN AFFAIRS, RETURNED SEPTEMBER 5 TO CAIRO AFTER ATTENDING FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LIBYAN REVOLUTION. PRESS REPORTS SALIM HAD TALKS WITH QADHAAFI AND MEMBERS OF RCC TO ASSESS AND FOLLOW UP BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH EMBOFF WE FOUND FRENCH EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS COINCIDE BASICALLY WITH OURS. FRENCH BELIEVE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE QUIETLY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR GETTING RID OF QADHAAFI, BUT THINK EGYPTIANS ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT RETAINING THEIR IMAGE IN THE ARAB WORLD AS A REGIME WHICH CAN BE COUNTED UPON NOT RPT NOT TO MEDDLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IF OVERT OR CLUMSY COVERT ACTIVITIES WERE SEEN AS CAUSING QADHAAFI'S UNTIMELY DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE, FRENCH BELIEVE THIS WOULD CRITICALLY DAMAGE WHAT LINKS OF TRUST SADAT HAS MANAGED TO BUILD WITH OTHER ARABS, NOTABLY SYRIANS, AS WELL AS JORDANIANS AND LEBANESE. WE AGREE WITH FRENCH ASSESSMENT THAT SADAT HAS WORKED HARD AND SUCCESSFULLY TO OVERTURN REPUTATION WHICH
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EGYPIANS EARNED UNDER NASSER AS CONSPIRATORIAL KING MAKERS AND

GENERAL MEDDLERS IN AFRO-ARAB AFFAIRS.

3. FRENCH ALSO AGREE WITH OUR VIEW THAT LOYALTY OF RCC TO QADHAAFI AND APPARENT LACK OF ALTERNATIVE CHARISMATIC LIBYAN FIGURE MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE MOVEMENT AGAINST QADHAAFI IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT EGYPTIANS ARE ONLY TOO AWARE OF THIS DEPRESSING FACT OF LIFE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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